

# DOINGWHATWORKS



## Slideshow

FULL DETAILS AND TRANSCRIPT

### Partnering With Local Colleges

Dayton Early College Academy, Ohio

Kearny High School of International Business, California

University Park Campus School, Massachusetts

March 2010

Topic: Helping Students Navigate the Path to College

Practice: Prepare Students Academically

#### Highlights

- This slideshow describes how three schools, Kearny School of International Business, University Park Campus High School, and Dayton Early College Academy, partner with local colleges to increase students' access to college courses and experiences.
- Partnering with local colleges means students have access to courses not offered in their high schools, relationships with professors and college students, and opportunities to experience and envision college life. Faculty also benefit from access to college resources.

#### About the Sites

**Dayton Early College Academy**

Dayton, OH

**Demographics**

80% Black

13% White

4% Other

53% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Dayton Early College Academy is an early college charter high school that offers students a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to excel academically and succeed:

- All students complete a single-track rigorous college preparatory curriculum and matriculate by passing through six “gateways” that have clearly specified learning indicators.
- Teacher-advisors serve as role models and provide students with emotional and academic support to navigate their way to college.
- Students show personal growth and commitment to the community through community service, internships, and job shadows.

**Kearny High School of International Business**

San Diego, CA

**Demographics**

47% Hispanic

16% Black

12% White

4% Asian

1% Native American

74% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

30% English Language Learners

12% Special Education

Kearny High School of International Business is a small school serving a diverse population of students, many of whom are English language learners, with a focus on individualizing instruction. Some key features of Kearny’s college preparatory program are:

- Hand-scheduling students so that they become college-ready and are supported in areas of need;
- Using multiple sources of data and assessments to determine student needs;
- Offering before-, after-, and during-school classes, tutorials, and advising to support struggling students;
- Creating a community where academics and achievement are highly valued; and

- Offering extracurricular activities for students to explore careers, get extra help, or receive assistance with college applications.

## University Park Campus School Worcester, MA

### Demographics

40% Hispanic

32% White

21% Asian

7% Black

78% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

10% English Language Learners

12% Special Education

University Park Campus School prepares all of its students, most of whom will be first-generation college-goers, to succeed in college. The school's success is based on

- Offering a rigorous, all-honors academic curriculum that starts in grade 7 and focuses on deep thinking and active engagement,
- Collecting and reviewing a range of assessment data to make student- and school-level decisions,
- Implementing a college-going culture and providing supports to help students go to and succeed in college, and
- Providing direct assistance to students and their families in applying, being accepted, and transitioning to college.

## Full Transcript

Title slide: Partnering With Local Colleges

One way to enhance a college-ready curriculum is to provide opportunities for students to take college courses while still in high school. See how three high schools partner with local colleges and smooth the transition between high school and college.

Slide 1: Starting early

Kearny High School of International Business partners with nearby Mesa College to provide college courses

for students as early as their sophomore year. Every student prior to graduation must take at least one college class at Mesa College, and some graduate with more than 30 college credits. Many seniors take advantage of an early graduation program and enroll full time at Mesa in the spring of their senior year.

#### Slide 2: Support for success

Kearny students learn college-going strategies, like how to choose classes, how to find cheap textbooks, and how to find a section or professor that is a good match for their learning style. Kearny counselors and a liaison at Mesa College support the students in selecting classes. Students are able to take classes that may not be offered to them in high school, such as foreign languages, and challenge themselves while still receiving individual support.

#### Slide 3: Mini-seminars with college professors

University Park Campus School offers multiple ways for students to take college classes. In grades 7-10, students take mini-seminars with Clark University faculty. These seminars introduce students to the expectations of college coursework. Eighth graders at University Park take an Introduction to Shakespeare seminar. The students become a Shakespeare troupe and perform scenes from several plays.

#### Slide 4: College courses at Clark University

Juniors and seniors at University Park have the opportunity to audit or enroll in classes at Clark University. The high school students can choose from a wide array of courses and electives that are offered at the university. University Park encourages all students to enroll in at least one college course before high school graduation. Successfully completing a college course while in high school helps students build self-confidence that they can succeed in college.

#### Slide 5: Organizing college-prep activities

Dayton Early College Academy (DECA) is a nontraditional charter high school housed at the University of Dayton and focused on preparing first-generation urban students to go to college. Dayton University staff assist with curriculum development and professional development for DECA teachers. They also organize education opportunities for students, such as workshops, overnight visits, test preparation, and study skills classes.

Slide 6: College professors as mentors

DECA students can enroll in college-level courses at Sinclair Community College or the University of Dayton. Once students complete an assessment to determine their academic readiness for college-level work, some are invited to participate in a Professor Dialogue, where students develop a mentoring relationship with a university faculty member. In addition, the Professor Interest Course is designed to allow students to take courses taught by college professors without receiving college credit.

Slide 7: For more information...

These are just a few ways schools might partner with local colleges to prepare their students academically. For more information and details about these three high schools, see their site profiles on the Doing What Works website.